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Chief, St/I/R
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4 December 1956

Requirements on Rail Journey Harbin-Suifenho

St/I Office Notice No. 97, 30 October 1956

1. Observe very carefully, where the railroad gauge changes in the Suifenho area. How many different separate yards are there in this area? How many tracks in each yard are Soviet gauge; how many are Chinese standard gauge? Where a yard has alternating Soviet and Chinese gauge tracks, draw a diagram to show how they are placed. What types of freight were being transloaded between Soviet and Chinese cars? What method was being used to transload? Were any freight cars being jacked up so that the axles could be changed from Soviet to Chinese gauge or vice versa?
2. Count the number of freight cars on each freight train sighted. Give the maximum and minimum number of cars observed; or give the most frequent number of cars.
3. Between major junctions count the number of trains which pass on the opposite direction, whether they are standing still or moving. If possible, give the number which are freight, passenger, and other types of trains.
4. If stranded at a railroad station for several hours, keep a count of the number of trains which pass in each direction. If possible, give a breakdown of these trains by freight, passenger, and other types. Be sure to indicate what period of time is covered by the train count. In addition, it is valuable to have a count of the number of freight cars per train, as in question 2.
5. Is the line single or double tracked? If partially double tracked, locate accurately the two points between which it is found. Where the line is single tracked, give the location of each siding or yard seen, and the number of tracks in each.
6. Describe the transportation of petroleum products. Does petroleum ever move in trains carrying petroleum only, or is it always included in trains with other freight? How is petroleum transloaded at Suifenho?
7. Notice what type of signals are in use along the lines. Are they color light type, or the semaphore type? Do they appear to be automatic, or to be controlled by a hand-throw lever? Are they found only at stations? If they are also found between stations, how many signals are there, on the average between

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two stations? Make this count only on one side of the track.

8. Were any cars with Russian markings seen on this line west of [redacted]? If so, what type (box, tank, flat, refrigerator)?

9. What type of locomotives are in use pulling freight trains? Give the locomotive type shown on the side of the locomotive cab, and also give the wheel arrangement (such as E-2-0)

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